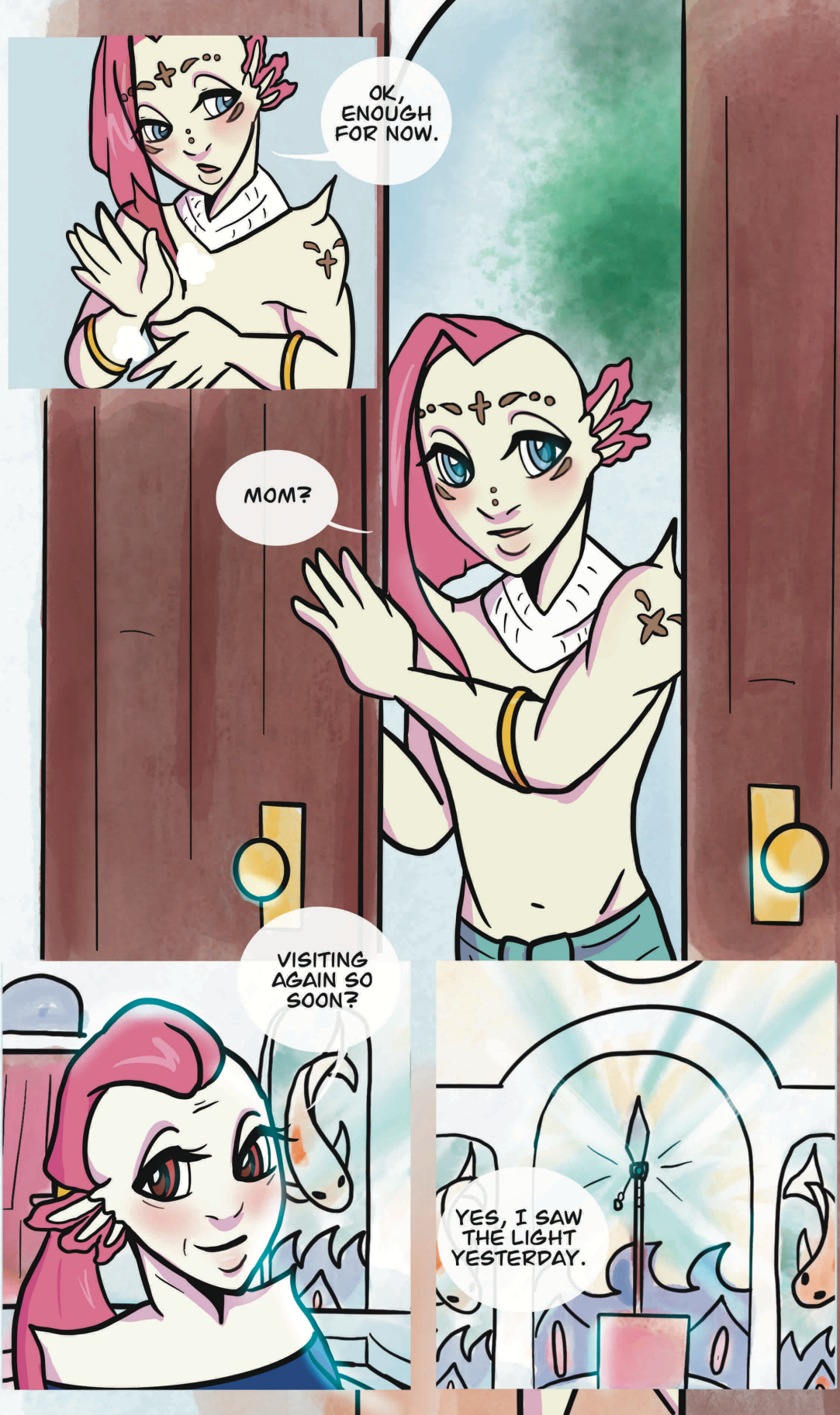
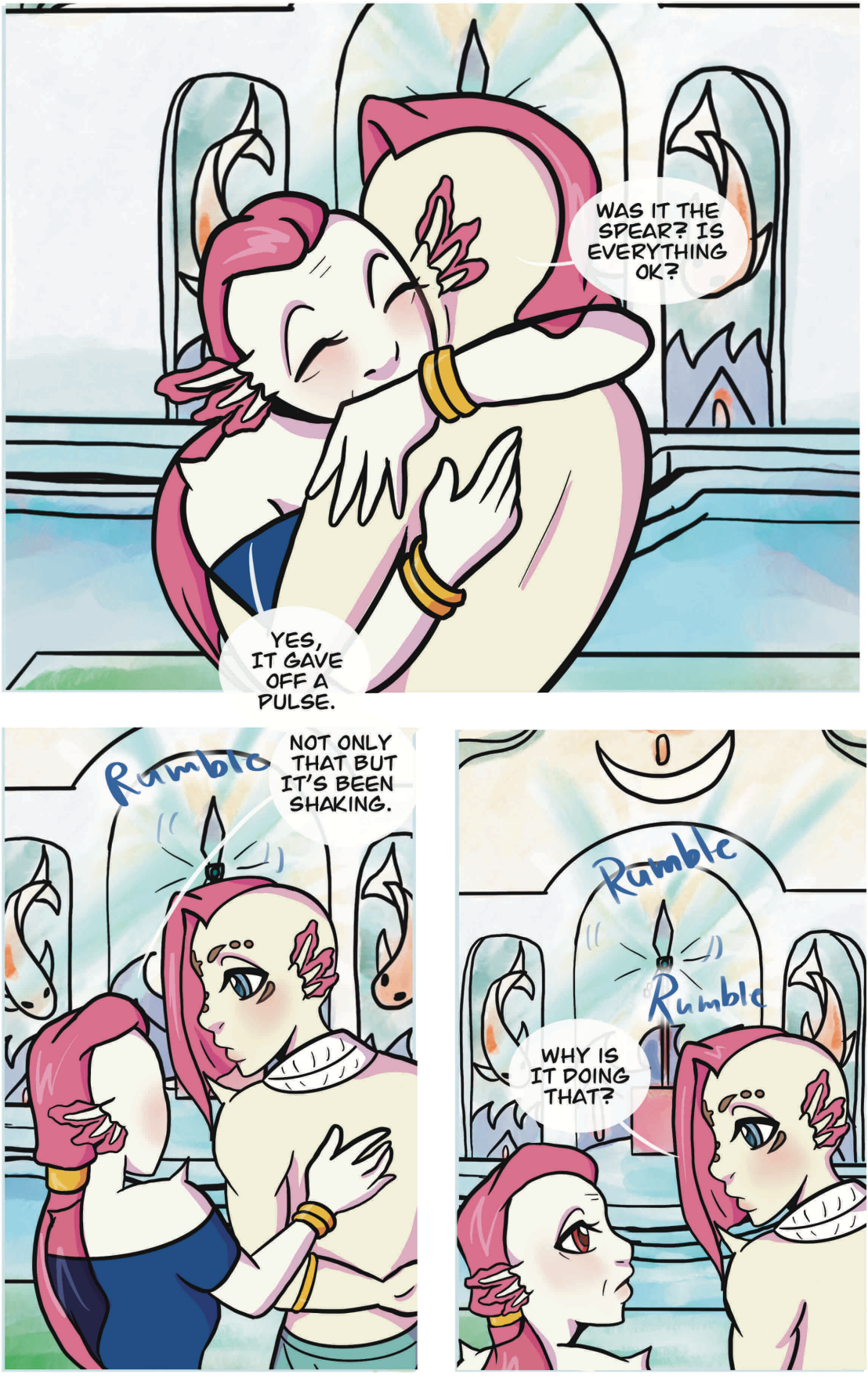
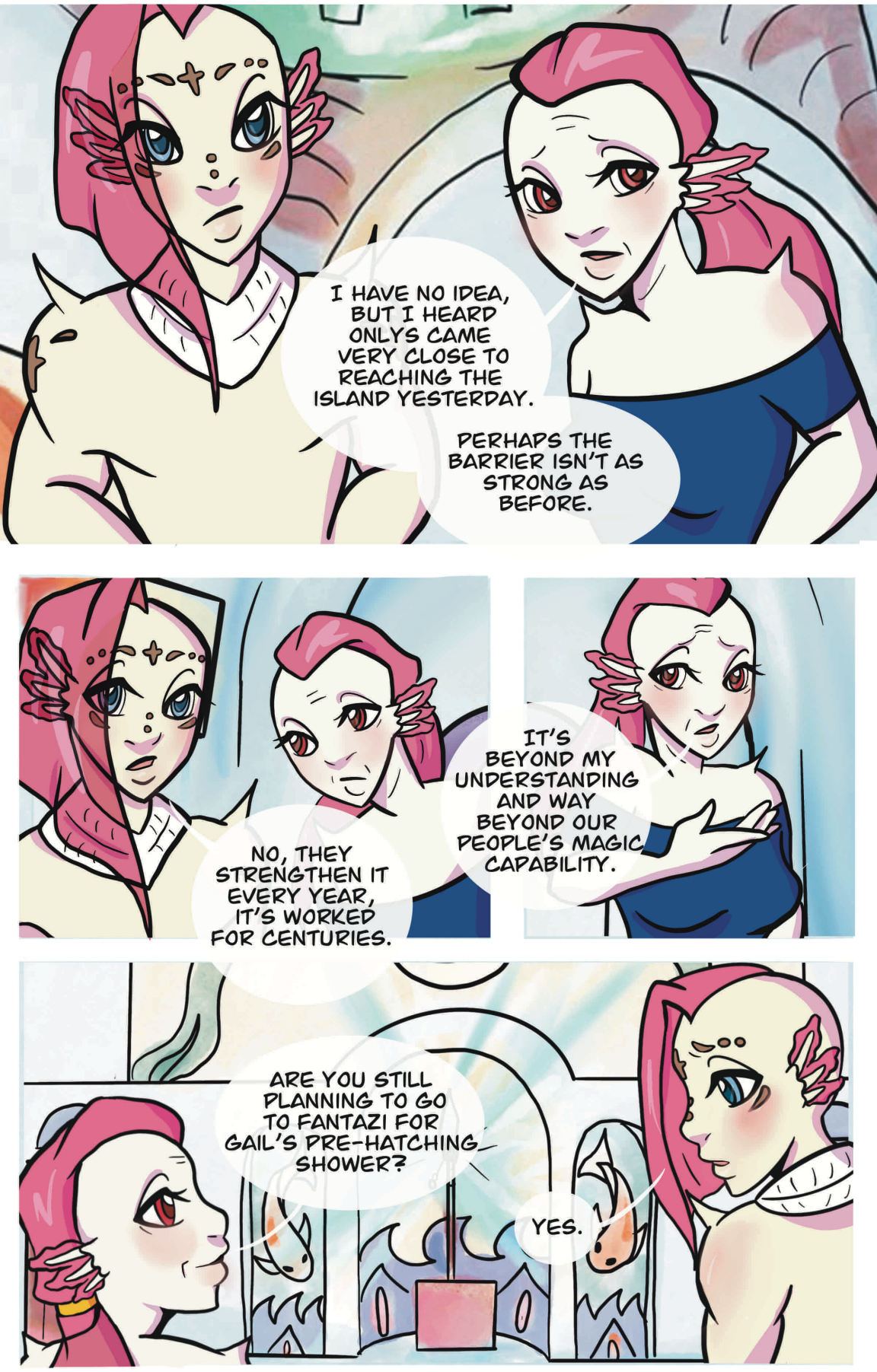
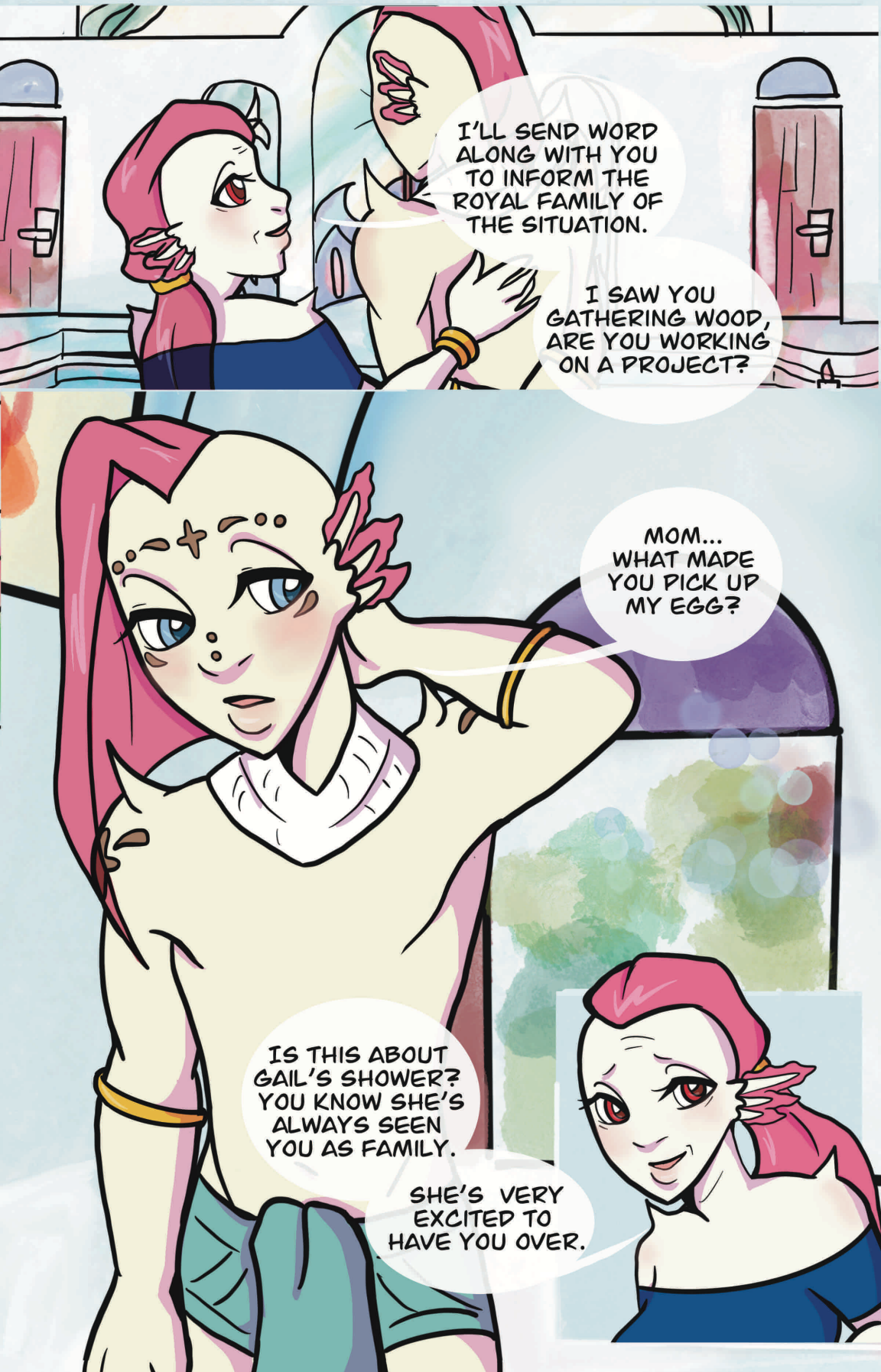
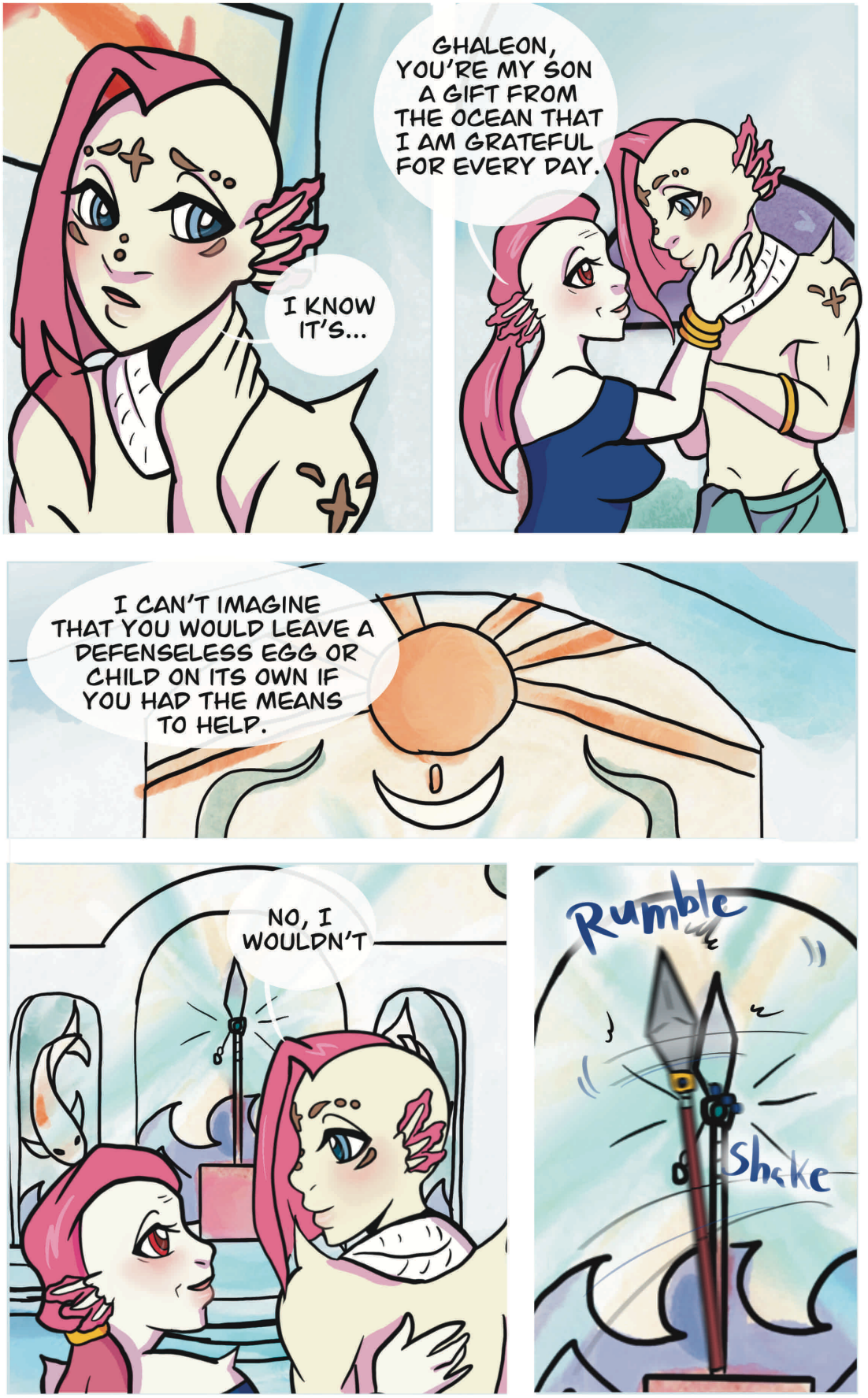
Chapter 2


OK, ENOUGH FOR NOW.
MOM?
VISITING AGAIN SO SOON?
YES, I SAW THE LIGHT YESTERDAY.


WAS IT THE SPEAR? IS EVERYTHING OK?
YES, IT GAVE OFF A PULSE.
Rumble
NOT ONLY THAT BUT IT'S BEEN SHAKING.
Rumble
Rumble
WHY IS IT DOING THAT?


I HAVE NO IDEA, BUT I HEARD ONLYS CAME VERY CLOSE TO REACHING THE ISLAND YESTERDAY.
PERHAPS THE BARRIER ISN'T AS STRONG AS BEFORE.
NO, THEY STRENGTHEN IT EVERY YEAR, IT'S WORKED FOR CENTURIES.
IT'S BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING AND WAY BEYOND OUR PEOPLE'S MAGIC CAPABILITY.
ARE YOU STILL PLANNING TO GO TO FANTAZI FOR GAIL'S PRE-HATCHING SHOWER?
YES.


I'LL SEND WORD ALONG WITH YOU TO INFORM THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THE SITUATION.
I SAW YOU GATHERING WOOD, ARE YOU WORKING ON A PROJECT?
MOM... WHAT MADE YOU PICK UP MY EGG?
IS THIS ABOUT GAIL'S SHOWER? YOU KNOW SHE'S ALWAYS SEEN YOU AS FAMILY.
SHE'S VERY EXCITED TO HAVE YOU OVER.


I KNOW IT'S...
GHALEON, YOU'RE MY SON A GIFT FROM THE OCEAN THAT I AM GRATEFUL FOR EVERY DAY.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT YOU WOULD LEAVE A DEFENSELESS EGG OR CHILD ON ITS OWN IF YOU HAD THE MEANS TO HELP.
NO, I WOULDN'T
Rumble
Shake

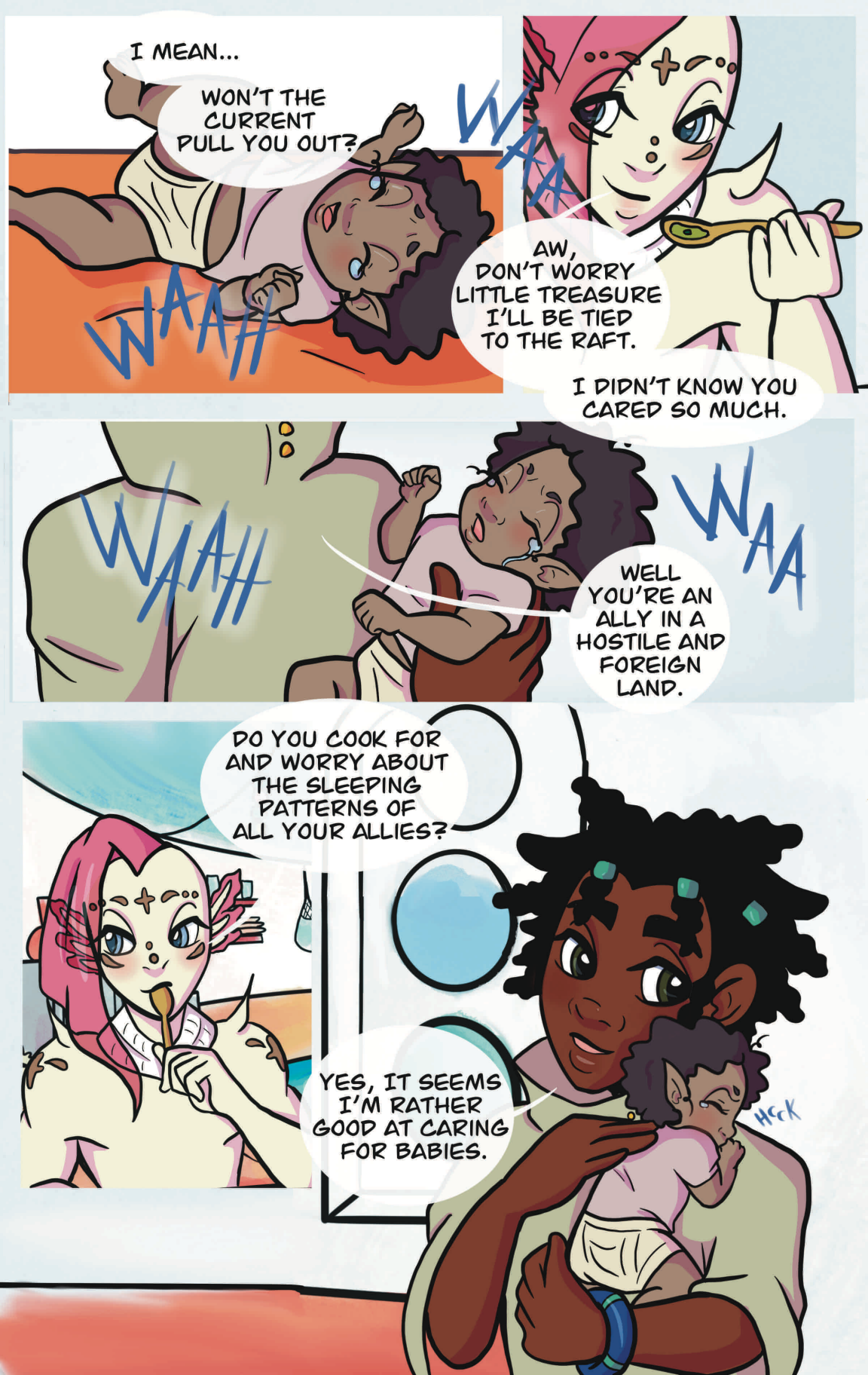
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TAKE THE SPEAR WITH YOU TO THE CAPITAL, AS WELL.

I'VE GATHERED ENOUGH WOOD AND MATERIALS TO CONSTRUCT A RAFT FOR YOU.
HAVE YOU EATEN?

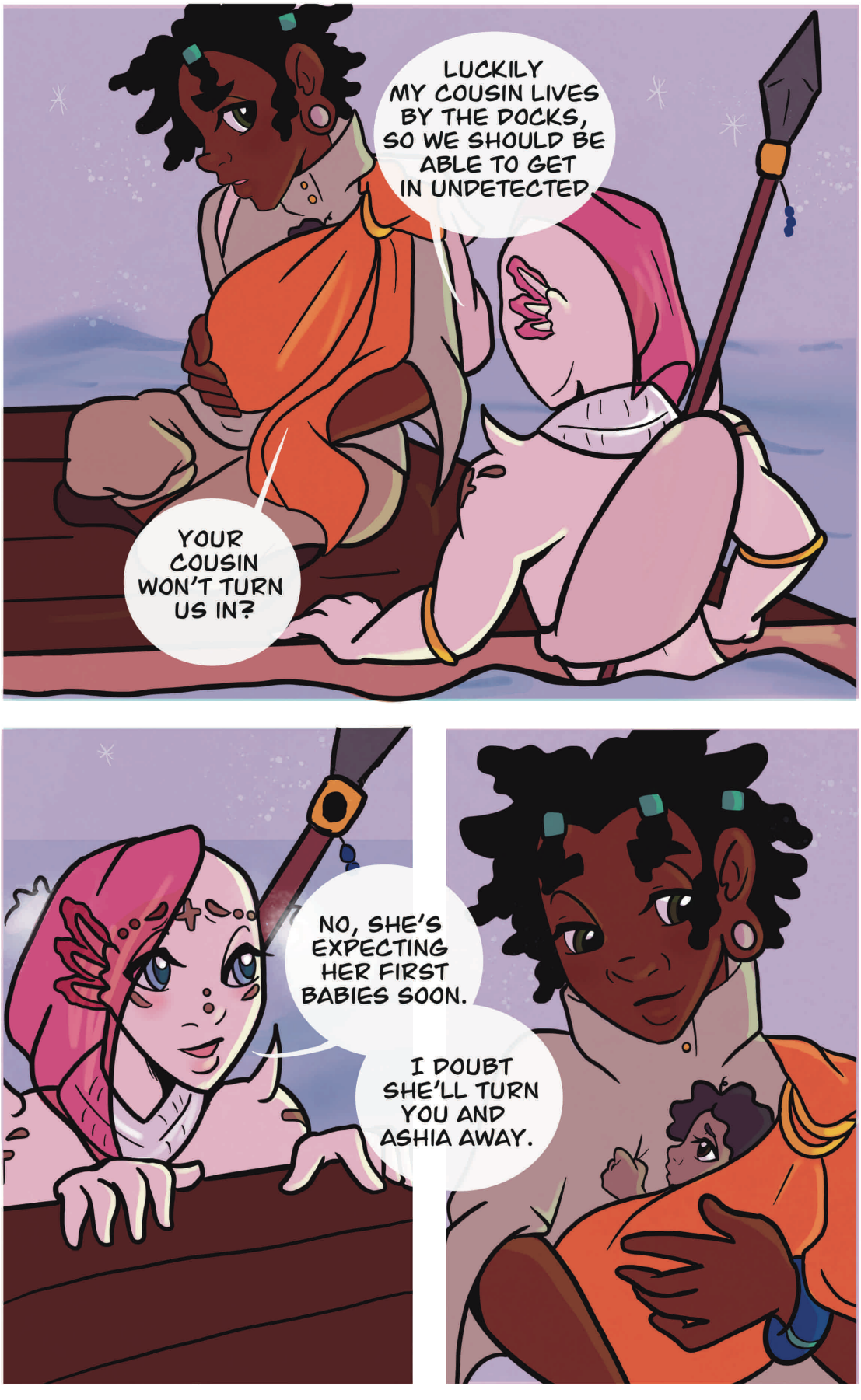
I COOKED LUNCH, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, I NEEDED TO HEAT UP WATER FOR ASHIA.
THIS SMELLS DELICIOUS.
THANK YOU.

I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL BUT...
WHY ARE YOU HELPING US? WHY NOT TURN US IN? SEND US BACK?
TAKING YOU TO THE CAPITAL IS NO EXTRA BURDEN.
BESIDE I'D LIKE A HANDSOME TRAVEL COMPANION.
OH..I..
SO YOU'LL SWIM THE WHOLE TIME?

OF COURSE I'LL BE PULLING THE RAFT.
WE'LL BE CROSSING DURING THE NIGHT.
WON'T YOU GET TIRED?
WHAT IF THE CURRENT IS STRONG, AND YOU NEED TO REST?
THEN I'LL TAKE A QUICK NAP IN THE WATER.


I MEAN...
WON'T THE CURRENT PULL YOU OUT?
WAAH
WAA
AW, DON'T WORRY LITTLE TREASURE I'LL BE TIED TO THE RAFT.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED SO MUCH.
WAAH
WAA
WELL YOU'RE AN ALLY IN A HOSTILE AND FOREIGN LAND.
DO YOU COOK FOR AND WORRY ABOUT THE SLEEPING PATTERNS OF ALL YOUR ALLIES?
YES, IT SEEMS I'M RATHER GOOD AT CARING FOR BABIES.
HCCK

ARE YOU READY?
YES, THANK YOU. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.
I KNOW, BUT ALSO DANGEROUS.


LUCKILY MY COUSIN LIVES BY THE DOCKS, SO WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IN UNDETECTED.
YOUR COUSIN WON'T TURN US IN?
NO, SHE'S EXPECTING HER FIRST BABIES SOON.
I DOUBT SHE'LL TURN YOU AND ASHIA AWAY.

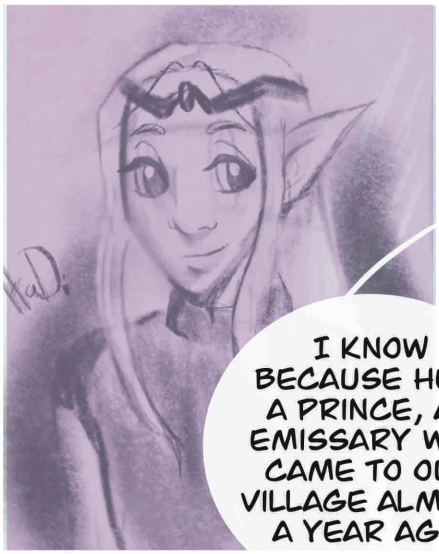
IT'S OK BABY GIRL, WE'VE ALMOST MADE IT.
YOU'LL MEET YOUR DADDY SOON.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TRAVELING?
TWO WEEKS
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SCARY.
I'M USE TO TRAVELING ALONE, I KNEW MY WAY TO THE COAST.

IT WAS BEING HERE THAT FRIGHTENED ME.
I'VE HEARD STORIES OF THE CRUEL DIWATIANS, THAT BANISHED US AND KEEP RESOURCES ALL TO THEMSELVES.
YOU MEAN OUR MAGIC?
NO, I MEAN FRUIT, LUMBER, CLEAN WATER. THOSE ARE ALL LUXURIES WHERE I COME FROM.
I'M USE TO TRAVELING ON MY OWN, BECAUSE I LEAVE MY FAMILY WEEKS AT A TIME TRYING TO FIND WATER FOR OUR CATTLE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THE HUMAN LANDS WERE SO BARREN
I'M SURE MOST DON'T. IT'S NOT LIKE OUR CULTURES INTERACT MUCH.
STILL I ACTIVELY WORK TO KEEP ONLYS AWAY FROM WHAT THEY VIEW AS BASIC SURVIVAL NEEDS.
MY SISTER ALWAYS HAD HOPE THAT THINGS WOULD CHANGE, UNLIKE ME. I'D SEEN SUFFERING ALL OVER, BUT SHE WANTED TO CHANGE THINGS, MAKE LIFE BETTER.

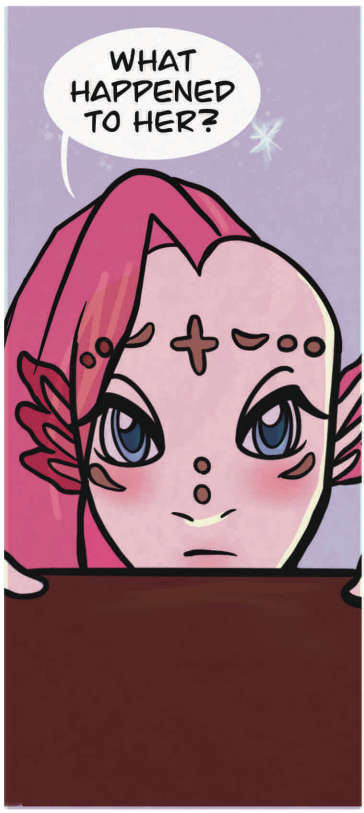
YOUR SISTER WAS SOMEONE IMPORTANT IN YOUR COUNTRY?
SHE WANTED TO BE.
Slide
SHE HAD HOPES OF A REUNITED WORLD, WHERE WE SHARED RESOURCES AND LEARNED FROM ONE ANOTHER.
I SUPPOSE ASHIA IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THOSE IDEALS.

SO, HOW DO YOU KNOW ASHIA'S FATHER WILL BE AT THE CAPITAL?


I KNOW BECAUSE HE'S A PRINCE, AN EMISSARY WHO CAME TO OUR VILLAGE ALMOST A YEAR AGO.

APPARENTLY OUR VILLAGE SITS ON TOP OF A RESERVE OF GEMS.

I DON'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING BUT THE ROYAL FAMILY WANTED TO START A MINING OPERATION. MY SISTER WOULD ATTEND EVERY VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, I GUESS DURING THAT TIME SHE FELL IN LOVE.


WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?

I... I WAS GONE TO TAKE THE CATTLE TO MARKET.
WHEN I CAME BACK ALL THE DIWATIAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE GONE AND MY SISTER WAS GOING INTO LABOR.
THE ONLY EXPERIENCE I HAD WAS HELPING MY COWS GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR CALVES ....
I... I WASN'T MUCH HELP. SHE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY .....
I'M SORRY

nod
nod
z
z
z

Slip
Woosh
Drift
Woosh

Bump
Bump
Rattle
GHALEON! HELP!
SHOVE
NO!

GET ...
BACK!
SCREECH
GHALEON?

I WON'T BE ABLE TO OUT SWIM IT.
I'LL PUSH YOU TWO TO A SAFE DISTANCE, HOLD ON TIGHT.
WAIT!
SNAP

Zoom
Tremble
Huff
Huff
Huff
Coooo

Cooo
ASHIA?
WHAT'S WRONG?
ASHIA?

WHAT CAN I DO?
CLASH